

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

* * *

15 This matter is before the Court on Defendant's Motion to Seal Documents (#9) and the
16 Government's Response in Opposition (#10).

BACKGROUND

18 On March 27, 2006, Defendant Roseanna Pella (Pella) was charged with Intentionally
19 Accessing a Protected Computer Without Authorization With the Intent to Cause Damage, in
20 violation of 18 U.S.C. §1030(a)(2) and (a)(3). Complaint (#2). Shortly thereafter, Pella entered into
21 a pre-trial diversion agreement with the Government. Notice of Pretrial Diversion (#4). The
22 agreement deferred prosecution and promised dismissal of the complaint if Pella met certain
23 conditions and requirements. Pretrial Diversion Agreement (#5). Pella met the requisite conditions
24 and requirements and the Complaint was dismissed. Order of Dismissal (#7).

25 Pella now seeks to seal all documents concerning her case. These documents are being
26 accessed by prospective employers who are denying Pella opportunities after reviewing the
27 documents. See Email from Jennifer Wilkin to Roseanna Pella Revoking Employment Offer, dated
28 March 12, 2012, attached as Exhibit A to Defendant's Motion to Seal (#9).

1 | ////

2 | //

DISCUSSION

4 There is a “strong presumption” in favor of access to judicial records. *Kamakana v. City and*
5 *County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2008). To overcome this presumption, the party
6 seeking to seal judicial records must provide compelling reasons supporting the request. *Kamakana*,
7 447 F.3d at 1180. “That is, the party must ‘articulate compelling reasons supported by specific
8 factual findings,’ that outweigh the general history of access and the public policies favoring
9 disclosure, such as the public interest in understanding the judicial process.” *Kawakana*, 447 F.3d
10 at 1178-79 (internal citations omitted).

11 There are multiple reasons which qualify as “compelling” for purposes of sealing exhibits
12 to a dispositive motion including: (1) the need to protect “traditionally kept secrets” (*Kawakana*,
13 447 F.3d at 1184)(identifying two types of documents as ‘traditionally kept secrets’: grand jury
14 transcripts and warrant materials during the pre-indictment phase of an investigation.); (2) the need
15 to protect sensitive personal and medical information (*see Lombardi v. TriWest Healthcare Alliance*
16 *Corp.*, 2009 WL 1212170 *1 (D. Ariz.) (allowing the defendant to file exhibits under seal where they
17 contained “sensitive and personal medical information)); (3) the need to protect proprietary
18 information (*see Network Appliance, Inc. v. Sun Microsystems, Inc.*, 2010 WL 841274 (N.D. Cal));
19 and (4) the need to honor the attorney-client privilege and the work-product doctrine (*see Asdale v.*
20 *International Game Technology*, 2010 WL 2161930 (D. Nev.) (“The public interest in accessing the
21 courts does not outweigh the compelling need to ... honor the attorney-client privilege and the work-
22 product doctrine.”)).

23 Here, the only reason offered in support of this request is that potential employers will not
24 understand the diversion process and believe she is someone convicted of the offense. However,
25 this, standing alone, is insufficient to support a finding in favor of sealing all documents in this case.
26 Pella has not met her burden to provide a sufficiently compelling reason to overcome the
27 presumption in favor of access to judicial records.

28 | //

